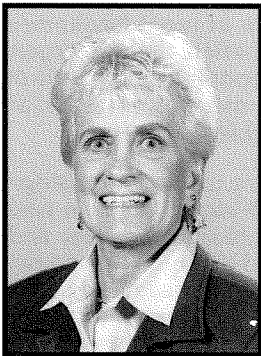


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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SUMMER ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS Summer has officially begun and Michigan residents are getting their fans and air conditioners out. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) encourages all consumers to help avoid a power "crunch" that could occur during the summer months during times of peak electricity usage. Just a few minor adjustments in leisure, personal, and business lives will help ensure adequate electric capacity in the state and, in many cases, help consumers and businesses save money on electricity bills, too. Many of the same techniques that save energy in the winter, such as insulating and caulking, also help in the summer. Homeowners and businesses can take additional steps to conserve energy such as turning off lights or appliances in unoccupied rooms and unplugging equipment that is not in use. For more information on how to conserve energy while keeping cool this summer, please visit MPSC's website at www.michigan.gov/mpsc.

DID YOU KNOW? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the typical U.S. family spends close to \$1,300 a year on their home's utility bills.

KEEPING MICHIGAN CHILDREN SAFE The Michigan House and Senate have proposed a package of bills aimed at keeping young people safe from sexual predators. The Student Safety Initiative is a bicameral effort aimed at protecting children by keeping felons and other dangerous individuals out of classrooms. The legislation requires background checks on all paid school and day-care center employees and prohibits anyone with a sex offense from working at either place; creates Student Safety Zones by prohibiting convicted sex offenders from living, working, or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school; and requires all school employees to self-report any criminal charge to their school district and to the state Department of Education.

HISTORICAL MARKER GUIDEBOOK NOW AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC A new guidebook which lists Michigan's historical markers is now available through the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). The publication, "Traveling Through Time: A Guide to Michigan's Historical Markers," features 87 pages highlighting nearly 1,500 Michigan historic sites. Residents and visitors alike can utilize the book as a tool in their quest to learn more about Michigan's rich and diverse history while traveling our great state. Since 1955, Michigan has designated approximately 1,500 historic areas throughout the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. "Traveling Through Time" is available at most bookstores or by calling (517) 373-1663 and includes the location and full text of each historical marker; alphabetical listings organized by county; and more than 85 historic photographs. Proceeds from the sale of the guidebook support the programs of the State Historic Preservation Office, which administers the Michigan Historical Marker Program. For more information about the book or Michigan's historical marker program, please call (517) 335-2725, or visit www.michigan.gov/hal.

RUNNERS NEEDED FOR 2005 LABOR DAY RUN In a tradition started last year, runners are once again being welcomed to participate in the annual Mackinac Bridge Run. In conjunction with the Labor Day Bridge Walk, the running event is sponsored by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports; Farm Bureau Insurance; and the Department of Community Health. All runners must be at least 18 years old, pre-registered, and pre-qualified to participate. At least one resident from each of Michigan's 83 counties will be chosen as their county's "fitness ambassador." Three hundred participants, who must all have participated in at least one event endorsed by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports prior to June 30, will be selected through a lottery system. To enter the lottery, runners from endorsed races must pre-register at the Governor's Council website, www.michiganfitness.org by June 29. Runners will be selected by June 30 and will be notified in writing. Those not chosen to participate will not be permitted to run the bridge. For more information about the run, including how to register and the rules of the event, please visit the Governor's Council website or call, toll-free, 1-800-434-8642.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov